

REMARKS

Claims 1-43 are pending in the application.

In the aforementioned Office Action, claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-18, 20, 21, 25, 28, 30-32, 36 and 40-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Komatsu* (U.S. Patent No. 5,818,882) based on new grounds of rejection during appeal. Claims 4, 8, 19, 22-24, 26, 27, 29, 33-35, 37-39 and 43 were stated as allowable.

With respect to the new grounds of rejection, Applicants respectfully disagree. To expedite prosecution and without acquiescing to the Examiner's positions, the allowable claims have been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of their respectively base claims and any intervening claims.

In light of the above amendment and remarks, Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and an early allowance are respectfully requested.

In the event of any fees that may be due or any overpayments that may be associated with this response, please charge or deposit the amount to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

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